

2009 YEAR IN REVIEW PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROGRAMS

EVALUATION

- ✓ Alexandria recognized as a Bronze Level “[Bicycle Friendly Community](#)” by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrates with [announcements and events](#) at City Hall.
- ✓ According to figures released in March 2009 by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 2007-08 Regional Household Commuter Survey, *9% of all commuting trips in Alexandria are made by bicycling or walking*. This represents an increase of 5.5% since 1994 and places Alexandria second in the region to Washington, DC (15.3%).
- ✓ In 2009, there were **49*** pedestrian crashes and **21** bicycle crashes. For the second year in a row, there were no fatalities. In 2008, there were 57 pedestrian crashes and 15 bicycle crashes.



ENGINEERING

- ✓ Participated in the [opening of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail](#) and the shared-use path between Washington Street and Rte. 1 in Fairfax County, which drew thousands to Alexandria on National Trails Day and was featured in media outlets such as [The Washington Post](#).
- ✓ City Council approved installation of four [Rapid Flash Beacons](#) across the City which will improve pedestrian safety at mid-block, uncontrolled crosswalks. The signals should be operational in early 2010.
- ✓ Installed 2.8 lane miles of on-street bikeways including a road-diet and climbing lane on West Braddock Road
- ✓ Installed a new sidewalk on Cambridge Road to provide a Safe Route to School for students at MacArthur Elementary School
- ✓ Completed a major 1-mile rehabilitation of the Holmes Run Greenway Trail between North Ripley and Duke Street, which included resurfacing and erosion control
- ✓ Completed the Tarleton Trail project, providing a new connection between North Gordon Street and the Holmes Run Greenway. This project also included new safety railing on Eisenhower Avenue.
- ✓ Major pedestrian safety improvements at Van Dorn/Stevenson Avenue and East Glebe/Montrose. These projects and the resurfacing of Washington Street improved safety and accessibility at 20 intersections.
- ✓ Completed the [Holmes Run/Chambliss Crossing Study](#) which recommended a low-profile crossing and new trails to connect Alexandria with Fairfax County's Holmes Run Stream Valley Trail. Final construction drawings are expected in 2010.
- ✓ Held a professional competition to seek designs for the [Four Mile Run ped-bike bridge](#).



Photo by Mark Gail/Washington Post.



Holmes Run Greenway after resurfacing.

* 2009 crash data is provisional/draft until verified by staff. Final figures are typically available by April.

EDUCATION

- ✓ Continued our successful summertime “[Bicycle Ambassador](#)” program which included 12 students from middle and high schools. The students attended over two dozen major events such as the Waterfront Festival and numerous Farmer’s Markets to personally delivered bicycle maps and safety information to over 1,500 Alexandria residents.
- ✓ Offered free “[Confident City Cycling](#)” classes for residents through the Washington Area Bicyclist Association in spring and fall.
- ✓ Held our annual ‘[Lights for Bikes](#)’ campaign with BikeWalk Alexandria and local bicycle shops to provide over 200 bicycle light sets to residents in high-accident areas. Virginia law requires lights when cycling at night.
- ✓ Working with Alexandria City Public Schools, earned another federal grant for Safe Routes to School efforts in the amount of \$95,000. [Francis Hammond](#) was also one of 25 national mini-grant winners through the National Center for Safe Routes to School.



Ron and Trina Taylor of Wheel Nuts Bike Shop install a light as part of the 2009 Lights for Bikes giveaway.

ENFORCEMENT

- ✓ Conducted two targeted enforcement campaigns (spring and fall) at drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists to raise awareness of safety concerns as part of the bi-annual [Street Smart](#) campaign. Each campaign includes specific enforcement waves with tickets issued to drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

ENCOURAGEMENT

- ✓ Completed revisions and re-printed the city’s [2009 Bikeways Map](#) – some 40,000 copies are available for distribution through 2011. In July, The Alexandria Gazette Packet published a ‘[Guide to Alexandria Biking](#).’
- ✓ Events year-round encourage cycling:
 - February: BikeWalk Alexandria participated in numerous events such as the George Washington Birthday Parade
 - May: 11th annual [Bike to Work Day](#) attracted 7,000 region wide and in Alexandria, where the free giveaways included two bicycles, nearly 700 attended
 - June: In coordination with WABA and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge partners, held day-long rides to the [Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail on opening day for National Trails Day](#).
 - October: [Walk to School Day](#) included participation at eight schools and over 1,200 students.
 - November: The ‘Lights for Bikes’ event rewarded over 200 cyclists with light sets



Headed to work on Bike to Work Day 2009.
Photo by Steve Tisara.